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20 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Imagery Exploitation Team

1. This is the first of several memoranda to keep you informed of the progress of the Ad Hoc Imagery Exploitation Team, set up to examine US imagery exploitation resources and capabilities. These memoranda will summarize the discussions at meetings and any key judgments reached by the team as its study progresses. They will also include my general observations and evaluation of trends the study appears to be taking as well as actions I plan to take to insure that DDI user requirements are given proper consideration. This being the first memorandum, I have included a brief discussion of the events which led to the establishment of study team.

2. Background.

a. Dr. Albert C. Hall, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), in a letter to the DCI on 4 November 1974, offered an alternative to the augmentation of NPIC [   ]. 25X1 He suggested that existing DoD resources might be able to relieve NPIC of the portion of the workload by assuming responsibility for routine [   ] reporting on 25X1 targets having a relatively low priority.

b. The DCI response to Dr. Hall on 23 December stated that the current practice of centralizing exploitation routines at NPIC had been established, after extensive study, on the basis that it was the most cost effective way of doing the job. He nevertheless agreed to reexamine the question of centralization versus decentralization and stated that he had asked the Intelligence Community Staff to accomplish the review by 1 April 1975.

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4. General Observations

a. Although it is too early to detect any trends it is quite clear that the objectives of the DoD members will be to justify decentralization of ☐ exploitation, perhaps by country and target category. While, on the surface this appears to have some merit, I believe it is not feasible unless NPIC can be completely relieved of responsibility for the category of target and geographic area. Even more important, responsiveness to the user as well as the quality of the reporting undoubtedly would be unsatisfactory for some period of time after such a plan was implemented. Recent attempts to make better use of

b. Decentralization probably will also pose an additional ADP problem. Even with a centralized system we have yet to solve the problem of formatting PI reports so that they can go directly into a data base without being reformatted by analysts.

c. Another point, and contrary to what DoD probably will say, I believe that, over time, expenditures for additional personnel and equipment assets for DoD resources will approximate the cost of providing NPIC with the personnel they are requesting.

DDI Representative
Ad Hoc Imagery Exploitation Team

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